

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) Aggregate mixing ~~Mixing~~ apparatus comprising:

a substantially spherical batch mixing vessel having an inlet to receive constituent solid aggregate material,

an agitation assembly for mixing the ~~constituents~~ solid aggregate material within the vessel and an outlet to convey batches of mixed material,

a pressurizing device for pressurizing the mixing vessel to assist in evacuation of the mixed material ~~constituents~~ from the outlet, and

a batch loader including:

a conduit ~~assembly~~ through which the ~~constituents~~ solid aggregate material are conveyed in use by fluid flow into the batch missing vessel, and

a jet pump to create a vacuum to load the mixing vessel with the solid aggregate material, without the need for manual loading,

~~wherein~~ a single pneumatic source ~~is~~ used both to pressurize the mixing vessel and to drive ~~a~~ the jet pump ~~comprising the batch loader.~~

2. (Canceled)

3. (Previously Presented) Apparatus according to claim 1 wherein the mixing vessel is provided with a clamping arrangement for preventing accidental lifting of a lid when the vessel is under vacuum.

4. (Canceled)

5. (Previously Presented) Apparatus according to claim 1 wherein the batch loader comprises an inlet suction conduit assembly which includes an adjustment device, such that the effective length of the conduit assembly can be varied in use.

6. (Previously Presented) Apparatus according to claim 5 wherein the conduit assembly comprises a section which is capable of telescopic movement.

7. (Previously Presented) Apparatus according to claim 1 wherein the conduit assembly is provided with an arrangement operable to vibrate the intake.

8. (Previously Presented) Apparatus according to claim 1 wherein an airflow is provided in the flow discharged from the mixing

result.

9. (Previously Presented) Apparatus according to claim 1 wherein the mixing vessel is provided with a level sensor.

10. (Original) Apparatus according to claim 9 wherein the level sensor is an oscillating-vane level sensor.

11. (Previously Presented) Apparatus according to claim 1 wherein the agitation assembly comprises mixing paddles.

12. (Previously Presented) Apparatus according to claim 1 wherein the agitation assembly is hydraulically driven.

13. (Withdrawn) A mixing vessel for mixing apparatus comprising:
a sealable charging inlet for loading constituents to be mixed,
an outlet for discharging the mixed constituents, and
a pressurizing device for pressurizing the vessel;
wherein the mixing vessel is generally spherical.

14. (Withdrawn) A vessel according to claim 13 further comprising an internal protective liner comprising at least two segments.

15. (Withdrawn) A vessel according to claim 13 comprising a clamping arrangement for preventing accidental lifting of the lid/cover when the vessel is under vacuum.